



# NEWS RELEASE

**Office of Representative Michelle Ugenti-Rita**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **REP. UGENTI-RITA COMMENTS ON COLORADO CITY AND HILDALE VERDICT**

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016)** - Today's victory by the United State Department of Justice against the communities of Colorado City, Arizona and Hildale, Utah for violating the constitutional rights of some of its citizens is significant, unfortunately it came later than was necessary. In 2012, I sponsored legislation which would have created a mechanism for the state of Arizona to decertify the Marshall's Office in Colorado City, which is an action I learned today will also be occurring.

For three years, I sponsored and advocated for legislation to provide law enforcement with this additional tool to address the situation there. Ironically, some of those who opposed my legislation were representatives of the law enforcement community. As part of my efforts, I even visited Colorado City, accompanied by members of the Mohave County Sheriff's office, to see the community first hand. I had been encouraged and invited by both sides of this issue to go there and I am grateful I had the opportunity to do so.

While this verdict is an important first step, there is much more to be done. Many legislators and stakeholders have worked tirelessly to protect the rights of these citizens and they should be commended for their efforts. Now is the time for all parties, including the legislature, law enforcement and local governments, to come together and develop a solution to resolve the issues in these communities and ensure these types of discriminatory and abusive acts never occur again.

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